



ADMISSION

The Graduate School policy on Admissions contains the policies and regulations of the Alcorn State University Office of Graduate Studies. This policy has been established by the Graduate Council to ensure consistent standards across Graduate programs.

Eligibility for Admission to Graduate School at Alcorn State University

Applicants holding a bachelor's degree or higher are eligible to apply for graduate admission at Alcorn State University. The following are general admission requisites in submitting complete application packets.

- A complete application for admission as a First Time Graduate, Readmission Graduate, Second Master's Degree, Educational Specialist, Non-Degree or Post Master Certificate.
- An official transcript from all accredited Institutions of Higher Learning (official transcript must document degree conferred).
- Two letters of recommendation (letters are not accepted from relatives of the applicant) and in some cases, three letters based on the requirement of the academic unit.
- Standardized Test Scores [GRE, GMAT (School of Business), PRAXIS CORE and PRAXIS Subject Area (Master of Arts in Teaching)].
- A minimum cumulative GPA of 2.50 or above for Unconditional Admission and 2.25-2.49 Conditional Admission. Academic units may require higher academic GPAs.
- A \$10.00 application fee is required for non-residents of the State of Mississippi. Payment should be made in money order only.

International Admission Requirements (additional regulations to the general admission requirements)

- Credential Evaluation. Evaluation conducted by an accredited credentialing evaluation service (Credentialing Service must be a member of NACES – National Association of Credential Evaluation Services) to determine if international transcripts reflect degree is equivalent to U.S. Bachelor degree.
- Applicants whose native language is not English must submit TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) or IELTS (International English Language Testing System).
- Statement of Finances (Bank statements cannot be older than three weeks). Declaration of finances to verify resources to support educational costs to study in the United States; Affidavit and bank statement must not be older than three weeks upon submission to the Graduate Office; finances must meet the university's assessed tuition and cost of living expenses
- Tuberculosis Chest X-Ray and Tuberculosis Blood Test (student must make arrangements with a medical facility after arrival in the United States and request results to be sent to the Graduate School).
- Applicants should consult with individual programs to see if there are higher standards for English proficiency in their chosen program. Students coming to the University with a master's degree from another accredited institution may receive a master's degree from the University in a different field.

Applicants who are graduates of English-speaking universities are not required to take the TOEFL or IELTS.

Academic units may specify additional requirements depending on the length of the program, prerequisites for the individual student, and/or the nature of the first degree.

Standardized Test Scores

Official test scores are required for admission to the Graduate School at Alcorn State University. Scores sent directly from ETS to The Graduate School are considered official.

We do not accept expired scores, personal copies of scores, or letters attesting to score reports.

Ask [Educational Testing Service](#) to send an official copy of the scores to The Graduate School. Use institution code 4008. Make sure you specify that your scores are sent to the Graduate School. You do not need a department code. If ETS requires a department code, select any one of the department codes listed on its site. Regardless of the department code entered, the scores will come to The Graduate School as long as you use institution code 4008. **Be sure to inform us if the name on your application is different from the name on your score report.** Applicants are required to take the Verbal, Quantitative, and Analytical Writing portions of the General Test of the GRE

GRE scores are considered valid for five years from the testing date. If your scores are more than five years old at the time your application is reviewed, new scores will be required. Applicants are advised to take the GRE in time for official scores to reach The Graduate School by the application deadline.

Application Process

Domestic and International students applying for graduate school must:

- Complete the online application for Graduate Admission (includes program requirements). All admission documents must be received by the application deadline.
- Following processing of the online application, a customized admission checklist is sent to the applicant to inform him/her of admission documents relative to the program of interest.
- Letters of recommendation must be submitted by the references only, dated and signed; official transcripts must be requested from the attending university; credential evaluations for International students must be received from the approved Credentialing Service; official test scores must be received from the official testing service.
- Non-Mississippi residents must pay a \$10 **non-refundable** application processing fee (money orders only)
- Following submission of complete application documents by the applicant, the Graduate Office will send a complete application packet notification to the student and department. Following this notification, the complete application packet is sent to the appropriate academic unit for review and an admission recommendation.

The application for admission to Graduate School and all supporting documents should be on file 30 days prior to the date of enrollment. Applicants submitting completed applications beyond the deadline are not guaranteed admission. The deadlines to submit an application packet are as follows:

- Fall–July 15th
- Spring–November 25th
- Summer I–April 25th
- Summer II–May 25th

School of Nursing

- December 15th - Nurse Educator & Post Master's Option
- March 15th - Family Nurse Practitioner

Applications packets for admission received beyond the deadline for admission will be processed for the next semester.

Admission Decisions

Notification of complete application packet is sent to each applicant within 1-3 days once all documents have been submitted. Each department has an appointed admissions committee to review complete application packets. Each graduate academic unit makes the initial evaluation of applications for admission based on their unit's admission guidelines in compliance with the Graduate School academic regulations. After review, a recommendation for admission is submitted to the Graduate Office. Admission committees make admission decisions within three days after receiving complete application packets. The dean/administrator of the Graduate School, upon the recommendation of the graduate faculty, makes the final decision regarding admission. After the program recommendation, the Graduate Admissions Office will send the student the official admissions notification and other materials.

All credentials become the property of the Graduate School at Alcorn State University and will not be returned. Submission of an application packet does not grant automatic admission to a degree program.

Admissions Classifications

We admit graduate students in one of three categories: Unconditional, Conditional and Non-Degree.

Readmission

A graduate student who does not continue enrollment for one or more semesters must reapply for admission to his/her graduate program. If changes occur in the curriculum during non-enrollment, the student falls under the new requirements upon being readmitted.

Duplication of Advanced Degree

Students who already hold an advanced academic degree may be admitted to a second master's degree different from the first master's. The Graduate School does not allow dual degree enrollment or duplication of the same degree for enrollment.

Degree Plans and Program Change

Students must submit a degree plan after admission within the first semester of enrollment. This curriculum plan is a contract of the program of study based on the program of interest the student is admitted.